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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

JUL 18 1996

Mr. J. R. Wilkinson
Confederated Tribes
of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
P.O. Box 638
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), would like to express our thanks and appreciation for the valuable support provided to the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA) Project by Mr. Stuart Harris. Since being designated as the CRCIA technical representative for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) last Fall (1985), Mr. Harris has been a valuable member of the CRCIA Management Team and has made significant contributions, some of which are acknowledged in the following:

- The CRCIA Management Team was formed in response to criticism about DOE's perceived lack of address to Tribal and others' concerns in the CRCIA. The purpose in forming the team was primarily to "bring into the management tent" the Tribes and others who have a stake in decisions regarding conduct of the CRCIA. By doing this, RL wanted to ensure that input was provided early in the decision making process, that CRCIA activities were conducted in a thoroughly open and agreed-to manner, and that Tribal and stakeholder concerns were heard and addressed. To accomplish these objectives, it was necessary that participating organizations identify technically knowledgeable individuals who could participate in weekly meetings on an ongoing basis.
- The CRCIA is the first project at the Hanford Site to initiate the "Management Team" concept of including the Tribes and other key groups in the project management structure. Thus, the concept was, and still is, considered innovative. Therefore, the success of the teams efforts has been under close scrutiny, not only by DOE management, but also by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State of Washington, Department of Ecology, management. An additional factor adding to the scrutiny of the teams efforts has been the CTUIRs Board of Trustees agreement with Secretary O'Leary regarding the CRCIAs serving as a yardstick to measure improved government-to-government consultation between DOE and the CTUIR.
- At this time, RL is pleased with the progress which has occurred on the CRCIA, progress which could not have occurred without the team. All team participants have played principal roles in contributing to this success. However, Mr. Harris's contributions have been unique. Without his support and singular contributions to the "Native American Scenarios" (particularly, the "Subsistence Resident" and "Hunter/Gatherer") would not have been included in the project. Their inclusion has added significantly to the acceptability of the project and RL hopes it demonstrates a sincere attempt to address Tribal customs and values, which have not heretofore been adequately addressed.

Mr. J. R. Wilkinson

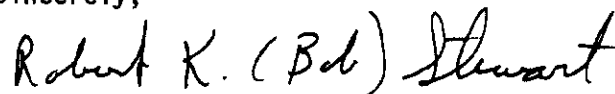
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In addition to the unique Human Scenario contributions, Mr. Harris has provided technical input and guidance on most aspects of the CRCIA, and effectively represented the CTUIR interests while working in a collaborative manner.

Thus, RL would like to express its appreciation to the CTUIR for the opportunity to work with Mr. Harris. RL looks forward to the continued working relationship with Mr. Harris and the CTUIR.

Sincerely,



Robert K. Stewart, Project Manager
Groundwater Project

GWP:RKS

cc: R. Dirkes, PNNL
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